



Maricopa Solar Dedication Ceremony

Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, January 22, 2010

Thank you.

Thanks to Dick Silverman, Dick Hayslip, Peter Wilt, and Mayor Barrett for inviting me to this grand opening of the Maricopa Solar Plant.

This is one event I would never have missed.

It is an example of what happens when great ideas, innovation and – yes – courage – come together.

It is filled with “firsts.”

This joint venture between SRP and Tessera Solar, is the first plant in the nation to make use of “SunCatcher” units to produce electricity for utility-scale use.

I am proud of that first, and the fact that green jobs are being created and that Arizona is leading the way with these economic development opportunities.

I am proud of something else.

I want to make Arizona the solar capital of the world, but as we engage that mission -- we should be aware that many solar-energy technologies require significant amounts of water.

But not here at the Maricopa Solar Plant.

The SunCatcher technology does not require water to generate energy, making it a perfect fit in our desert landscape with its high-level efficiency.

So, I am proud that SRP has stepped up to confront the challenges of our Second Century, with a pioneering spirit and gutsy step into the future.

Leadership is key in renewable energy as we look to creating jobs that are at the core of our economic recovery.

My first act as Governor included issuing a directive freezing all new agency rules and rulemaking, because we do not need new and burdensome regulations that only serve to strangle businesses and add needless costs and frustrations to people who are simply trying to make an honest living, or get into business for the very first time.

We cannot quash the next generation of entrepreneurs with petty rules and fines.

We must be sure we cut through the “green” tape as well as the red tape.

And, as I have stated before, can tell you how we are NOT going to do it.

We are NOT going to do it the California way, where, just recently, it was reported that visual impact and infrastructure regulations threaten construction of solar plants and wind farms planned for the region near the border of California and Nevada – those designed to generate electricity without carbon dioxide emissions.

In contrast, in Arizona, we have our act together – from distribution, to line-siting, regulatory and tax reform – to ATTRACT renewable energy industries.

We like them. We want them. We are prepared for them.

Not long ago, I announced creation of the Governor’s Solar Energy Advisory Task Force, a group of 15 people to evaluate incentives provided to solar energy producers and recommend their continuation, elimination, improvement and/or expansion.

They will identify impediments which have halted solar energy projects and have limited the distribution of solar and they will propose reforms to the public process and tax structures that advance the development of solar energy.

I also directed the Commerce Department, the Land Department, and our three State Universities – to frame the issues in renewable energy generation projects.

And convene a town-hall type meeting to discuss and develop strategies for increasing the success of renewable energy projects.

In short, Maricopa Solar is a shining example of how things ought to be done with a renewable energy agenda that is prepared for Arizona's future.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

Thank you.